(c) whether the meeting being rescheduled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) During the vist of the US Secretary of Defence Mr. William Perry to India in January 1995, it was agreed that there would be periodic consultations between the US Department of Defence and the Indian Ministry of Defence. These Policy Group meetings could include representatives from other Government agencies and departments from both sides as necessary No specific levels were formally identified. This in built flexibility in the arrangement enables the two sides to nominate officials as deemed appropriate and necessary from time to time. The Government of India considers the Policy Group to be a useful framework for co-operation and has conveyed to the US Government its intention to explore new avenues and levels of co-operation as well as to impart greater content and substance to existing ties between Indian and USA during the next meeting.

Expired sub-standard medicines in Defence Hospitals

802. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Defence Services Hospitals have been found using expired and sub-standard medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry into the supply and use of sub-standard medicines in the Services hospitals has been made by Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government against those found involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) The Defence Services hospitals are not using/issuing any life expired or sub-standard medicines. As per the existing procedure the drugs and medicines are purchased by the Armed Forces Medical Services from the manufacturers registered with the Directorate General of Quality Assurance or the Directorate General of Health Services. The medicines purchased centrally are tested by the Quality Assurance Organisation and only after their acceptance they are released for consumption. In certain emergent situations, the Medical Store Depots make local purchases of medicines from registered firms and accept them on the basis of their claim. However, for ample precaution, some samples are sent for post laboratory testing. The drugs purchased in such emergent situation are issued without waiting for the results of the Laboratory test wherever undertaken. In majority of cases, the laboratory tests confirm the specified standards of medicines. In a small number of cases the medicines are not found to satisfy all the prescribed specifications. In such cases the medicines are returned to the suppliers for replacement or for recovery of the cost of medicines. In certain cases, restrictions are also placed on future purchases form such firms. Defective drugs once detected are not issued, but are destroyed locally on confirmation from the firm concerned.

Arrest of ISI agent

803. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ISI agent, who was residing in Jalandhar (Punjab) as an Indian, was arrested sometime in the last week of August, 1997 with secret IAF documents and its secret code and passwords;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to identify his contacts in the IAF and also to know since when he has been carrying on with his spying mission in the IAF; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) On 19 August, 1997, Daniel Masih alias Peter Prakash, a Pak national trained by Pak ISI, was apprehended in the restricted area, on charges of espionage. Incriminating material relating to IAF was recovered from his possession.